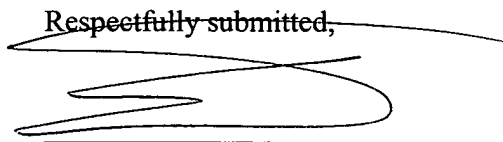


## REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Office Action dated December 28, 2004, in which the Examiner entered a restriction requirement. With this Response, Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Invention I (claims 1-62) without traverse. Applicants also withdraw the claims of Invention II (claims 63-75) without traverse and reserve the right to prosecute such claims in a later application. Applicants also amend claims 44 and 46. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, or otherwise feels it would be advantageous, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (713) 632-1676.

Respectfully submitted,



Tod T. Tumey  
Reg. No. 47,146  
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.  
P. O. Box 3267  
Houston, Texas 77253-3267  
(713) 238-8000  
ATTORNEY/AGENT FOR APPLICANT